

portion, mean and standard deviation and risk factors were identified by logistic regression.

Results: We found that majority of TB patient are male, low education, and age between 30–44 years. After VCT, 84% were accepted for testing and 19.7% presented HIV positive. Logistic regression presented higher risk of HIV infection in multiple sexual partner and IDU, OR = 6.897 ($p = 0.013$) and OR = 12.809 ($p = 0.001$), respectively.

Conclusion: This study presented high response rate of blood testing by VCT approach. The high magnitude of risk of multiple sexual partner and IDU can guide us the specific high risk population of HIV infection among TB patient in this clinic. Apparently, both risk behaviors refer to a social network among these marginalized groups that need much more attention on TB/HIV prevention and control. However, these groups are hardly traced and identified the social pattern which is very importance for disease dissemination control. We believe that VCT can provide faithfulness and trustfulness between patient and counselor which leads to a benefit of tracing social network of these populations. In further study, we intend to study only on these marginalized group and examine the benefit of VCT approach on TB/HIV prevention and control program.

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20.019

Surveillance of Maternal and Paediatric HIV in Malaysia (1991–2007)

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Background: The National AIDS Reference Laboratory (NARL) in Virology Unit, Institute for Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur has been carrying out the confirmation of HIV infection for mothers and infants since 1991. In 1997, the Ministry of Health (MOH) implemented HIV antibody screening for all pregnant women attending government Maternal Child Health Clinics. The antenatal screening was introduced with the aim to minimize or prevent vertical transmission of HIV infection where all HIV positive mothers and neonates were to be given anti-retroviral therapy.

The objectives of this study were to continue surveillance of paediatric HIV in Malaysia and to assess the impact of the MOH antenatal screening programme on the rate of vertical transmission of HIV infection in Malaysia.

Methods: Infants born to HIV positive mothers from 1991 to 2007 were tested for maternal antibodies, p24 antigen and HIV DNA. All infants conforming to the WHO positive and negative criteria were included in this study.

Results: A total of 2,688 infants born to HIV infected mothers were tested for HIV infection. Of these, 681 were born to mothers not given HIV prophylaxis during their antenatal period and 45.37% of infants in this group (309/681) were found infected with HIV. While in the remaining 2,007 infants who were born to mothers given HIV prophylaxis, only 5.08% were found to be HIV infected. This denotes a significant decreased ($p < 0.0001$) in the transmission rate and

Conclusion: The significant reduction in paediatric HIV infections, when prophylaxis were given to mothers during their antenatal period and to the neonates after birth, indicates that the MOH antenatal screening programme has achieved the goal of effectively reducing the vertical transmission rate of HIV infections in Malaysia.

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20.020

Attitudes Towards African Traditional Healing Practices in South Africa: Health Care Workers and Traditional Healers Affiliated to Antiretroviral (ARV) Services

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This paper comprises two complementary sub studies. The first used in- depth interviews to explore the attitudes and approaches of ten health care professionals working in ARV roll out sites in South Africa to their patients taking traditional medicine and accessing traditional healing paradigms. The sub study also probed their opinions of collaborating with traditional healers to strengthen ARV care. On the whole the study showed that health care professionals are concerned about the possibility of traditional healers undermining an ARV roll out programme. They are concerned that traditional healers may provide untested substances to HIV positive patients that could interact adversely with ARV drugs. They also believed that traditional healers could discourage patients from adhering to their ARV regimen. However, despite these concerns, most of the health care professionals were willing to collaborate with traditional healers but the partnership would have to be formed on the basis of the principles of the biomedical paradigm of healing. Health care professionals preferred to be solely in charge of the ARV drug regimen with (biomedically) trained traditional healers supporting them. They preferred traditional healers to concentrate solely on symbolic rituals.

The second sub study complements the first and used in-depth interviews to explore the attitudes and approaches of five female traditional healers (working in HIV/AIDS organizations in the Western Cape) towards the use of ARV treatment by their clients. This study also explored their attitudes towards a partnership with the formal public health sector with regard to HIV/AIDS care. The sub study showed that traditional healers are concerned about the well being of HIV positive people. All of the traditional healers who were recruited into this study were in favour of a partnership with health care workers as long as such a partnership is based on mutual collaboration and respect.

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